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Viewing cable 09COLOMBO968, SRI LANKA DENIES NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCURE LETHAL

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09COLOMBO968**.

| Reference ID | Created | Released | Classification | Origin |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 09COLOMBO968 | 2009-10-21 07:58 | 2011-08-30 01:44 | SECRET | Embassy Colombo |

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/spesial/wikileaksdokumenter/article3963361.ece>

VZCZCXRO5475
OO RUEHAG RUEHROV RUEHSL
DE RUEHLM #0968 2940758
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 210758Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0648
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1958
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 8994
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 7232
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5164
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3377
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 5120
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1397
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0655
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 4231
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 9555
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 6855
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY 1326
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3778
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T COLOMBO 000968
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENTS FOR ISN/CATR. EAP/K AND SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [PTER](#) [EAID](#) [MOPS](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA DENIES NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCURE LETHAL
MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM IRAN

REF: A. SECSTATE 46946

[1](#)B. COLOMBO 710

Classified By: AMBASSADOR PATRICIA A. BUTENIS. REASONS: 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (S) In a much-delayed response to our Ref A demarche on possible Sri Lankan procurement of lethal military equipment from North Korea and Iran, Sri Lankan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Director General (DG) Americas Division Kshenuka Senewiratne on October 16 said they appreciated U.S. concerns and stated that the GSL seriously considered the information. According to Senewiratne, there was no evidence backing the information we earlier provided in our demarche. According to the DG, to stop speculation regarding possible procurements of arms and ammunition from Iran, the GSL conducted internal investigations and had found no records that supported the allegations. DG stressed that the GSL abided by the UN Security Council resolutions and ensured that all guidelines were met. DG reiterated that post war, the GSL did not envisage a need for additional military hardware and hinted that the U.S. was receiving such information from sources that sought to sour U.S.-Sri Lanka relations. DG made no comments on procurements or negotiations of lethal military equipment from North Korea.

[1](#)2. (S) Comment: Notwithstanding the DG,s vehement denial of GSL procurements and negotiations from Iran, the GSL,s recent interactions with Iranian military officials raise questions. At an October 6th meeting with SL,s Army Commander, the Iranian Defense Attach Brigadier Asghary Nekah discussed an upcoming military delegation led by Iranian Army Brigadier Mahmoud Amini Ranjabar that suggested future strengthening of the Iranian-Sri Lanka military relationship. In a meeting with PolOff, the Japanese Defense Advisor discussed his deep concerns of possible talks of purchases and negotiations of arms and nuclear technology during the upcoming Iranian visit.

BUTENIS